

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 /091 W
-----170230Z 093944 /63

R 161417Z JUN 77
FM AMEMASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6746
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4378

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IS, LE, SY, PGOV
SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIAL'S REMARKS ON SYRIA AND LEBANON

1. THE MFA'S DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EAST AND EASTERN MEDITER-
RANEAN DIVISION (VERED) TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 15 THAT THERE ARE
SIGNS THAT SYRIA MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A RELATION-
SHIP WITH LEBANON SIMILAR TO THAT IT HAS WITH JORDAN.
ASKED TO EXPLAIN, VERED SAID THAT KHADDAM DURING HIS
RECENT TRIP TO BEIRUT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN CARRYING A
MESSAGE FROM AL-ASSAD TO SARKIS SUGGESTING A STRENGTHENING
OF SYRIAN-LEBANESE TIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS, E.G.,
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INTELLIGENCE AND MILITARY. SHE NOTED THAT THE
SYRIANS AND LEBANESE HAVE APPARENTLY COME TO AN
UNDERSTANDING ON THE CAIRO ACCORDS AND SHE SPECULATED
THAT THE SYRIANS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO
SOLIDIFY THEIR INFLUENCE IN LEBANON "IN CASE THE
ADF MANDATE IS NOT EXTENDED WHEN IT EXPIRES IN
OCTOBER." VERED CONCEDED THAT WHEREAS JORDAN HAS AN

ARMY AND LEBANON DOES NOT, SYRIAN RELATIONS WITH THEM
WOULD DIFFER, BUT SHE PERSISTED IN USING THE WORD
"SIMILAR."

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD
AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL SUGGEST THAT THE SYRIAN ARMY MAY
NOT NECESSARILY REMAIN IN LEBANON INDEFINITELY.
ALTHOUGH OFFERED SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES, VERED DID NOT
ELABORATE ON WHAT SHE MEANT BY THE SIMILARITY OF
SYRIAN-JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN-LEBANESE RELATIONS. AT
ANY RATE, SHE REMAINS PREDICTABLY ALERT TO ANY SIGNS
WHICH WOULD TEND TO CORROBORATE HER ABIDING SUSPICION
THAT THE IDEA OF "GREATER SYRIA" IS THE CORNERSTONE.
LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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